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THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. | ***Societies and Branches in the Union*** **602.** | **LAW-ABIDING.**

VOL. VI., No. 290.] FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1914. [PRICE 1D.
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HOW TO HELP.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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Notes and News.

The N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

Dr. Inglis has got her first £1,000! One hospital is secure, and it is to go to Serbia. For urgent reasons—the fear, in fact, that Turkey may abandon her neutrality—it is necessary that the hospital should start as soon as possible, lest it may be unable to get through. Dr. Inglis wants a yacht to take her unit to Salonika, by far the cheapest way of travelling. She also wants other things, and her wants are recorded in another column. Here we only remind our readers that Serbia has been at war, not for months but years, with only short intervals of peace. Her medical service was never anything like as complete as ours, and her need is unspeakable. We are glad, in spite of the needs of Belgium, and France also, that it is to this devastated country that our first unit goes. Now for the others!

An Overflow Meeting from the Kingsway Hall.

We announced last week that another meeting was being arranged for those who, owing to the alteration in time, missed the Kingsway Hall Meeting of October 20th. We now strongly urge those who were present to go again. Miss Sheepshanks, whose speech made so deep an impression on her audience, is to speak again, we hope at greater length. Miss Walshe, who accompanied her on her trip with the foodship to Flushing, is also to speak; and Signorina Lunati will tell us of "Italy's attitude towards the war from a private point of view." Mrs. Swanwick will speak for the N.U. The collection will be divided between the Active Service Fund and the Fund for Destitute Belgians in Holland.

£94 0s. 8d. for the Queen's Fund.

The collection at the Kingsway Hall meeting finally realised £249, of which various sums were ear-marked for the Queen's Fund, our own Active Service Fund, and the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital. The sum to be handed over to the first of these amounts to £94 0s. 8d. We are asked to say that a full list of subscribers will be published next week under "Notes from Headquarters."

Workers or Idlers?

It is rather astonishing to find *The New Statesman* urging that our Belgian guests should not be allowed to engage in productive work while in this country. In spite of a hesitating admission that lace-making and intensive culture might be permitted, this is the conclusion to be drawn from an article on the subject in last week's issue. Surely, in view of the fact that our own food-supply may easily become a serious problem in the future if the war continues, a more enthusiastic welcome might be accorded to Belgians, who have carried intensive culture to a pitch undreamed of by our agriculturalists! Not long ago, we were bombarded with instructions for increasing our food supplies and cultivating our waste lands. Now the Belgians have come, they want work, not charity; they have the very knowledge and experience we want. With their help, Great Britain may become not a poorer but a richer country for the war, in that she will be more self-sufficing. And we are told that "such things are difficult to organise, and some of them, probably, impossible!" The Government, however, has appointed a Committee to consider the question of employment for the refugees, and we hope it will face the difficulties and solve them. A rate of pay should be decided, to prevent undercutting or displacement of labour.

Lace-Making.

Intensive culture affords openings to women as well as men. Lace-making would be a woman's industry entirely. Probably it would be more difficult to set going at present, as lace is one of the luxuries most of us have already cut off. But the creation of such a highly-skilled industry here would be an invaluable asset in the future. It would surely be better to spend money in starting it, than perpetually to pursue the policy of doles. The Local Government Board has sanctioned loans for putting in hand public works which would give employment to men, the pressure on whom is, after all, relieved to some extent by recruiting. Here is an industry for women, which has not the disad-

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vantage of coarsening and hardening the hands, as do so many of the occupations offered to skilled workers to whom delicacy of touch is essential.

"Employed by Other Than Suffrage Societies."

Even in these dark times, gleams of humour light up our daily press. A letter to *The Times* (October 26th) urges the claims to relief of professional women, teachers, secretaries, clerks, and even "professional speakers usually employed by other than Suffrage Societies." An interesting discussion now rages round this mysterious exception, some holding that the writer of the letter regards Suffrage speakers as more than human and, therefore, requiring no food; while others suggest that they are less than human and, therefore, cannot be included in the work of any known committee. We incline ourselves to the theory that "Mabel Birchenough" knows that Suffrage Societies do not dismiss their paid workers in time of stress, and is anxious to call the attention of the public to this fact.

A Very Tragical Comedy.

But behind these proposals tragedies are already being enacted. Clerical work is being badly done, because it is largely done by untrained volunteers: clerical professionals are starving because the volunteers have taken their places. We cannot condemn too strongly the insanity of such arrangements, or too strongly urge the fortunate rich to restrain their misplaced zeal. There is room for volunteer work where no professionals will be displaced, and only there should volunteer work be offered or accepted. According to a letter in *The Times*, October 27th, clerks have actually been engaged by the Committee on Women's Employment and "dismissed because there were ladies who volunteered to do our work for nothing." Then, presumably, the displaced ones are to be offered relief!

Sweated Shirt Makers.

The East London Federation of Suffragettes has been in correspondence with the Board of Trade about the sweated rates paid to women shirt-makers. After much delay they have been told that *no minimum rates have been fixed* for the branch of trade (machining army shirts) in question. Rates have been proposed by the Shirt-making Trade Board, but not fixed, and at present "no such rates are in operation." It is now months ago that shirt-making was scheduled for a minimum rate. It is the industry which, *before all others*, was desired by all who know anything about the matter to be so scheduled. When it was left out of the first order there was a storm of indignation, and attention was freely called to the fact that it was a trade in which no voters, but only women were employed. At last, we were told, a new order was made to include shirt-making, and public interest accordingly relaxed. Now it appears that the battle is still to be fought! Minimum rates are nowhere "in operation."

The Temperance War.

Women have sometimes been accused of fanaticism on the subject of temperance; but they could hardly go further than the men when physical fitness becomes an obvious and urgent necessity. The hours of opening of public-houses are being shortened: Lord Kitchener has refused to forward gifts of intoxicants sent for the men at the front; physicians are appealing to soldiers to abstain at least as long as the war lasts. In France, the sale of absinthe is forbidden. In Russia, at an enormous sacrifice of revenue, the Government sale of vodka has been forbidden. We begin to ask ourselves whether physical fitness is not desirable in peace as well as in war, and whether we can ever go back on the decision that alcohol does not make for, but rather destoys, that fitness.

Another Great Problem.

We learn, on the authority of Mme. Avril de Sainte Croix, that "the French Government has ordered that in places where the Army is concentrated, the tolerated houses of ill-fame are to be closed." This wise and public-spirited policy is in glaring contrast to the reactionary methods suggested by the Plymouth Watch Committee. We hope that France will continue, in peace, what she has begun in war, and that the classic land of regulation may no longer tolerate its horrors. We have received a large number of protests against the action of the Plymouth Watch Committee, and are glad to announce that the Prime Minister has assured the Women's Freedom League that in no circumstances will there be any return to the policy of regulation either by statute or through the police.

The League of Honour.

At the present time women and girls of all classes are anxious to "do something to help." But, unfortunately, the interest which girls feel in our brave defenders frequently takes a form which lowers both their own dignity and that of the men for whom they wish to show their appreciation. Amongst other objects, the guidance of the energies of girls into a right channel during this period of excitement and unrest, is one that the "League of Honour" has been formed to promote.

Many of us feel that the bad conduct of flighty young women in neighbourhoods where there are troops can best be restrained if they are banded together with girls of stronger character, who are not themselves tempted to undignified and foolish behaviour. Girls of good education can render a truly patriotic service by leaguing themselves with others who have had fewer advantages, and showing by their own example how to be sympathetic and helpful towards the young men who have come forward for their country's defence, without letting natural interest degenerate into silly sentimentality or vulgar horseplay. Young men in camp have the guiding influence of their officers, and in some districts a considerable proportion have received a superior education and have come from good homes. They are for the most part keen on their work, and if civilians—male and female—do not put temptation in their way keep steady enough. But the girls whose conduct has given such ground for complaint are without discipline or healthy interest, and must either come from homes where the standard is far from high, or have escaped altogether from their parents' control. It is not sufficiently realised that girls, like boys, need amusement and some outlet for their energies beyond the narrow confines of home. And, like boys, they resent being preached at. But they are amenable to the right sort of influence, and the leadership of girls accustomed to the discipline of organised games, and to wholesome comradeship with boys, should do much to increase their self-respect.

The "League of Honour" is not a new permanent organisation, but a temporary one for the period of the war only, to provide a means whereby existing societies working for the benefit of women and girls can combine for special efforts necessary at the present time. On its council are a number of representatives of societies interested in the welfare of women and girls, among others, the London Dioc. C.E.T.S., the Y.W.C.A., the Free Church Council, the C.L.W.S., the Church Army, the G.F.S., and the Mothers' Union; the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being represented by Mrs. Harley. The constitution of the League has purposely been made as simple, and its methods as elastic, as possible, so as to allow of its being adopted by widely different associations.

The objects of the League are:—

(1) To band together the women and girls of the Empire, with the object of upholding the standard of women's duty and honour during this time of war.

(2) To raise a strong force of public opinion and support among women and girls, with which to combat some of the social and moral dangers emphasised by the war.

(3) To deepen, among women and girls of all classes, the sense of their responsibility for the honour of the nation, and to make clear the fact that the manhood of our country is either raised or lowered by the influence of its womanhood.

(4) To provide opportunities for mutual help, encouragement, and spiritual influence among women of all ranks.

The term "Band" is used in the League of Honour to designate the members enrolled by any one officer. It does not necessarily entail any particular form of organisation, or a minimum number of members. Branches of the League can be started for special "war efforts" in connection with some place, parish, or institution; or scattered members can be enrolled by any worker authorised by the Central Council. Application for appointment as "Enrolling Officer" should be made to a member of Council through the Organising Secretary of the League of Honour, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, Strand, W.C., from whom full particulars of the scheme can be obtained, and should be accompanied by information as to the kind of Band it is proposed to form, the following points being specially noted:—

(1) Whether the Band is to be worked as a fresh organisation, or in connection with one or more existing societies.

(2) Whether it is intended to be a local Band, or one for scattered members.

(3) Whether it is to be worked in connection with any church or chapel.

(4) Whether for girls, or women, or both.

Each member must pay an enrolment fee of 1d., and make

the following promise, which is printed on the card of membership to be signed on enrolment :—

"I promise, by the help of God, to do all that is in my power to uphold the honour of our nation and its defenders in this time of war, by prayer, purity, and temperance."

She is then given the card and a small badge with the device of the League.

The following are the rules for enrolling members :—

(1) Enrolling Officers can only be appointed by one of the officers or other members of the Central Council.

(2) Each application for authority to act as Enrolling Officer must be accompanied either by particulars of the society represented, and of the position held in it by the applicant, or by a recommendation from some minister of religion or other responsible worker.

(3) Each Enrolling Officer will receive a card, signed by a member of the Council, and will be authorised thereby to enrol other members.

(4) Members can only be admitted by an Enrolling Officer. No other members of the League are authorised to sign promise-cards.

(5) Enrolling Officers are requested to take every precaution against the admission of members likely in any way to dishonour the League, or bring it into disrepute. This danger, although remote or non-existent in many Bands, is one which in some cases will need to be guarded against with the utmost care. In cases where there is any room for doubt it is strongly recommended that only the *card* of membership should be given first, and the badge kept back for a time of probation, to be fixed according to circumstances. Enrolling Officers have the power to reclaim, if necessary, a badge forfeited by misconduct.

(6) The Enrolment Fee of 1d. should be paid when the *card* is given.

Temperance Work.

In view of the unfortunate increase of drinking among women since the outbreak of the war, temperance work forms an important part of the efforts of the League. The Council therefore urges the importance of getting as many members as possible to sign a pledge of total abstinence from alcohol during the war; but this is not a condition of membership.

Other activities will be patriotic meetings, needlework, classes in first aid and home nursing, cooking, &c. Different Bands will doubtless develop in different ways, as there are no hard and fast rules to discourage initiative, and an enterprising officer should find wide scope within the League.

WORK FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.

At time of going to press no particulars are yet forthcoming of the schemes that are being drawn up by the Central Committee on Women's Employment for providing work for professional women. Sympathy is being expressed in many quarters for the clerical workers, and other trained and capable women, who are forced to remain idle while work which they could well perform is attempted by voluntary helpers who are often inefficient; and it is hoped that some effort will be made by the Committee to induce various organisations to employ at least a proportion of salaried workers. In the meantime, Mrs. Hoster has already had several answers to the appeal mentioned in our last issue, and in one day was able to fill five good posts.

Help for women hitherto engaged in music, drama, and the fine arts and crafts is being organised by a Committee of the Three Arts Club, 19a, Marylebone Road, W., who have opened an Employment Fund, and are asking for donations. The object of the fund is to fit artists who cannot, owing to present conditions, find work in their own professions for some productive industry. The Committee states that :—

"In order not to encumber the labour market, only industries with present scope for enlargement will be chosen, either in connection with the land, where such occupations as poultry farming and market-gardening may be usefully extended, or in connection with manufacturing trades which now find room for development in this country owing to the war. The toy-making industry may be taken as an example.

"The Women's Emergency Corps, with which this fund will co-operate, is already finding establishments in which free training will be given in the various industries, and is taking steps ultimately to provide employment."

The Press Contributors' Emergency Fund, to which an office has been lent by the National Union, has already found work for several journalists, both men and women. The Secretary of the Fund would be glad to hear of any suitable paid posts in connection with literary and journalistic work, in libraries, as secretaries, investigators, or organisers. All communications should be addressed to Miss Hall, Press Contributors' Emergency Fund, Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

Several other organisations are also arranging assistance for the professional classes. The "Professional Classes War Relief Council," composed of nominees of the majority of the principal professional institutions, and representatives of the chief societies engaged in relief work, are organising assistance in matters of education, training, emigration, maternity aid, and temporary employment. All those interested are invited to give support by sending donations to the Treasurer, Professional Classes War Relief Council, 13 and 14, Princes Gate, London, S.W.

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THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

John Barleycorn. By Jack London. Mills & Boon, Ltd

Mr. Jack London's story-with-a-purpose, "John Barleycorn," is a decidedly original contribution to temperance literature. In his usual bright and breezy fashion, he sketches the history of a young man who falls a victim to the alcohol habit, not from any natural taste, but through the "cameraderie of drink"—because it is only in the public houses that he can find the companionship he needs. From start to finish of an adventurous career in many lands, he finds that "John Barleycorn is everywhere accessible, and . . . is everywhere the connotation of manliness and daring and great-spiritedness." Unfortunately, Mr. London complains, it is so often lads of a fine type whom drink destroys :—

"The fellows with the fire and go in them, who have bigness, and warmness and the best of the human weaknesses. And John Barleycorn puts out the fire and soddens the agility and . . . coarsens and grossens them, twists and malforms them out of the original goodness and fineness of their natures. . . . And the reason why those best are destroyed is because John Barleycorn stands on every highway and byway . . leading them by the hand to the places where the good fellows and daring ones gather."

Mr. London maintains that the only means of saving this waste of good material is to do away with the drink traffic altogether. "All the no-saying and no-preaching in the world," he says, "will fail to keep men and youths growing into manhood away from John Barleycorn when John Barleycorn is everywhere accessible."

"Stop him. Don't let him lie around, licensed and legal, to pounce upon our youth. Not of alcoholics nor for alcoholics do I write, but for our youths, for those who possess no more than the adventure stings and the genial predispositions, the social man-impulses, which are twisted all awry by our barbarian civilisation which feeds them poison on all the corners. It is for the healthy normal boys . . . for whom I write."

And the way to protect these "healthy, normal boys" is to give their mothers the vote :—

"The women are the true conservators of the race. The men are the wastrels, the adventure-lovers and gamblers, and in the end it is by their women that they are saved. About man's first experiment in chemistry was the making of alcohol, and down all the generations to this day man has continued to manufacture and drink it. And there has never been a day when the women have not resented man's use of alcohol, though they have never had the power to give weight to their resentment. The moment women get the vote in any community, the first thing they proceed to do is to close down the saloons. . . .

"They have paid an incalculable price of sweat and tears for man's use of alcohol. Ever jealous for the race, they will legislate for the babes of boys yet to be born. . . . And it will be easy. The only ones that will be hurt will be the loafers and seasoned drinkers of a single generation. . . . The overwhelming proportion of young men are so normally non-alcoholic, that, never having had access to alcohol, they will never miss it."

Hymns for Use During the War. Collected by Dr. Jane Walker. Price 2d., or 3d. with cover.

Our hymn-books are deficient in hymns for war-time, and Dr. Walker's collection meets a felt need. It includes hymns by Rudyard Kipling, Laurence Housman, and a really religious version of the National Anthem. It would be an excellent thing if the clergy of all denominations would supplement their hymn-books with this collection. Copies may be had from Dr. Walker, 122, Harley Street, W.

A BOOK THAT EVERYONE SHOULD READ.

THE WAR OF STEEL AND GOLD.

By H. N. BRAILSFORD.

Price 5s. net.

This is a study of the struggle for a Balance of Power in Europe, of which this war is the climax. It discusses the Parliamentary control of Foreign policy, and the formation of a permanent concert of Europe.

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THE WIVES OF ALIEN ENEMIES.

(Communicated from the Secretary of the International Women's Relief Committee.)

The new order for the rounding up of alien enemies of military age increases the dimensions of a charitable problem already acute, for many of these men are heads of families, and their internment raises in a fresh form the question of the provision for their dependents. Austrian and German aliens have thus far only been interned in small numbers, although large numbers have become destitute from the cessation of their employment during the war. The care of the wives and families of the married men among those interned or destitute has fallen largely on private charity.

Nearly 80 per cent. of the wives of alien enemies who apply for assistance to the various Societies in London are British by birth, and their children born in England are British. Over 2,000 cases of destitute British-born wives have already been dealt with by two Societies in London alone. It may be worth while to point out for the benefit of these women themselves and for the assistance of social workers who meet with these cases where and how help may be obtained. The work has been divided between different Societies as follows so as to prevent overlapping :—

German-born wives of men actually under arms in Germany or of men interned in this country should apply to the German Benevolent Society, 14, South Street, Finsbury, which is dispensing the money handed over to the American Embassy by the German Government. The wives of combatants are entitled to receive sums varying from 10s. to 30s., according to the size of their families; wives of detained persons, 10s. to 22s. a week.

British-born wives of German soldiers, and British wives of Germans interned in this country are provided for on a similar scale by the War Fund of the Central Committee of the United Aliens Relief Society, 68, Finsbury Pavement, E.C. (which is dispensed by the Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress). This Fund is provided by private charity, and is largely supported by the wealthy Germans in this country.

The wives of Austrian reservists who returned to Austria at the outbreak of war, and of Austrians interned in this country, have also hitherto been provided for by private charity. Now, however, the Austrian Government is understood to have placed some funds at the disposition of those who are assisting these women. This assistance is now in the hands of the Emergency Committee of the Society of Friends, 169, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, which works in conjunction with the Austrian and Hungarian Societies.

Destitute wives of alien enemies who cannot, for lack of papers or other reasons, obtain this semi-official help, may be assisted by Boards of Guardians. The Local Government Board allows Boards to recover half the cost of maintenance or of out-relief given to the wives of alien enemies interned in this country.

Many of the women (the greater number of whom are, as we have said, British) whose homes are temporarily broken up by the internment of their husbands, belong to a superior class, and it is desirable from every point of view that they should understand the means by which their homes may be kept together. Pending the issue of an official statement for the guidance of relief officers and others, it is desirable that the assistance available should be widely known.

It may also be pointed out that the help given only provides bare means of subsistence, and is not granted until destitution is reached. It is not speedy, for the organisations dispensing it are already overburdened, and one at least has worked night and day to cope with the distress at its doors. Relief workers are faced daily by starving British children, and thrifty, middle-class British-born women whose homes are being sold up to pay arrears of rent or whose furniture is seized by the dealers under Hire Purchase Contracts. It is to be hoped that steps may be taken to make the relief given in these cases as speedy and adequate as possible, and to alleviate the suffering of our many innocent fellow-countrywomen.

THE WOMEN'S PATROL COMMITTEE.

A satisfactory response has been received by this Committee for the preliminary expenses of its work, and some capable organisers are in process of training. The demand for their services from all parts of the country entirely justifies the faith of the Committee in the need for the special effort which it is making in the interests of the community. Enquiries may be addressed to the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Carden, 40, Gledstanes Road, W.; and any further contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Agnes Garrett, 2, Gower Street, W.C. Classes for the training of patrols are held at the offices of the N.U.W.W., Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.

A correspondent points out that on page 487, of the number of The Common Cause issued on October 16th, under the heading "Women Patrols," the name "Mrs. Chichester (Mothers' Union)" should read "The Dowager Countess of Chichester (President of the Mothers' Union)."

BOOKS FOR REFUGEES.

The Free Church Suffrage League appeals for gifts of books for Refugees and Prisoners of War resident in this country. French, German, and Flemish books are asked for, and should be sent to the Secretary, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, 15, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

THE GIRL'S PART IN NATIONAL LIFE.

Madam,—The remarkable article on Daughters which appeared in your issue of October 2nd, over the signature of H. M. S., is well calculated to make every thoughtful woman pause. It rouses one to look around and see how many non-business, non-professional young women are definitely allowed an active share in national life. Very few. But the daughters are becoming restless. Many are demanding more than just amusement. The recent tremendous effort to gain the vote brought to many a realisation of their pitifully small value as political factors, and they have felt stir in them a great determination to win a higher place in the nation's esteem. They are anxious to know in which direction to move; and, above all, they are driven by a desire to face life as it is. This means facing sorrow and disillusionment; but this is well worth while if life is made fuller and more helpful thereby. Nurses go their brave sweet way even after they have seen horrors and sordid miseries. So it always is. Knowledge brings patient forbearance and a desire to lift higher the level of human endeavour.

Now, there is at present one grave matter which should be occupying the attention of every woman, young or old—the morals of our soldiers. In a certain English town many thousands of soldiers are billeted. Came trooping after them wretched women, some diseased also. The young girls of the town are flattered by the attentions of the khaki-clad young fellows awaiting their call to glory and renown. The girls fall easy victims to the moment, and the future must hold for them dread days of misery and suffering. It is in the correction of all this that lies one of the noblest efforts of women, especially young women. The men of the Empire troop to the battlefield, there lies their duty; the women must troop with equal eagerness to the standard of purity and moral well-being. It would be foolish to attempt to segregate the two sexes—that might result in dangerous revolt. But is it not possible for girls and women to realise that in their hands lies the soldier's honour, as that of the Empire lies in his? Were it so, then all attempts to revive disgraceful C. D. Acts must fail. There would be no need to think of them. It is a big problem, too big to be gone into here. But this is sure: that no one else on earth may solve it save women. It cannot be done by the unfortunate slave of circumstance and vice, but by the clean young woman of the virtuous home, who takes her own sweetness and purity bravely into the dark places and cleanses them. H. M. S. asks if parents are willing to give their daughters to life. And here is a need, vital to all life. Can something be done? And please read H. M. S.'s article over again; it is worth it.

Josephine Ransom.

[*Mrs. Harley, of the N.U. Executive, is responsible for proposals to meet this need. They will be discussed at the Provincial Council. Meanwhile, all who wish to start work at once should communicate with her at 18, Milton Chambers, 128, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.*—Ed., C.C.]

SLEEPING-BAGS FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

Madam,—The following letter, received from a new recruit (in civil life an Estate Agent) to whom two of the sleeping-bags described in The Common Cause for September 18th were sent, may be of interest to your readers:—

"I am indeed grateful to you for your letter and for the two sleeping-bags. It is just such thoughtful kindnesses which make the rough side of camp life a little more smooth. Believe me, nothing could have been more acceptable to both of us than the bags, as this camp, being pitched on the top of a hill, is very cold indeed at night. The Army is certainly a democratic institution—we have in our tent a bank clerk, a stockbroker, an electrician, a gardener, two very doubtful characters, a carriage-builder, and a schoolmaster; and the joy of it all is that class distinctions are entirely set aside—we are all privates in receipt of the same pay, and have the same status in all things. . . . I received your parcel yesterday, and started this letter last evening; but was so continually interrupted I could not finish it. I have now had an opportunity of testing the grey sleeping-bag, and I can honestly say I have not before passed such a comfortable warm night. Private K—— wishes me to thank you sincerely for his bag; he also has reason to appreciate it."

M. L.

WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT.

Madam,—Why does every one who writes in reply to Miss O'Shea's letter on "Women and the Peace Movement," assume that there is no possibility of such a thing as an honourable peace. Is it necessary to wait for peace until one nation is absolutely crushed and humiliated, until, as Mark Twain puts it, we have covered the smiling fields of our "enemies" with the pale forms of their patriot dead, and overwhelmed their women with unavailing and unappeasable grief and desolation?

If it could be proved that no nation except the German nation would ever desire to make war again, that in fact no other nation among all the Christian nations now fighting is in the slightest degree responsible for the present crisis but the German nation, then perhaps to wipe that nation altogether off the face of the earth might seem to some an act of grace worth while. But is it not possible to destroy enemies in other ways than by annihilating them—for instance, by turning them into friends? Can we Christian peoples, by sincere searching, find and devise no other methods to bring about peace than dishonourable ones? Have we even any guarantee that when we have gone on to the bitter end we shall have actually achieved a lasting peace? In trampling Germany into the very dust, are we sure that we shall be able thereby to destroy for all time the Prussian military caste who have forced this war on their own nation as surely as they have helped to force it on others? Might there not even be a "more excellent way" than the way of destruction, even a way of reconciliation and transformation, a great regeneration of the nations which shall demand the cessation of this outrage on humanity? And if by prayer and fasting, by consultation and agitation, by meditation and mediation, such a way can be found, who shall say that it is not especially the women, the race bearers, the guardians of life that ought not to try and find it—and try now?

Carol Ring.

Madam,—May I, as one of the mere men whose good-will Mrs. Fitzroy Hecht is so afraid of alienating, protest in the strongest terms against the spirit of her reply to Miss O'Shea? It will be a new thing for the women's movement to adapt its ideals to suit the wishes of the man in the street! But even if this disastrous attitude is in some degree forced upon it at the present moment, let me suggest to Mrs. Hecht—and your other correspondents who are so afraid of what men will say—that there are at least some men whose support was considered worth securing in times of peace, whose opinion of women's fitness for the vote will be greatly fortified by finding that not all women are carried away by the wave of unreason which now threatens us no less than Prussian militarism itself.

A man can understand that his own sex, whose past has been so largely bound up with the ideals of the warrior, should feel its pugnacious emotions stirred when the battle-cry is raised even in semi-civilised countries. But what some of us had been led to hope was that there were others, now deprived of any voice in the direction of national policy, who might help us, in virtue of the fact that their emotions and ideals are not necessarily so barbarous as ours, to a better solution of our national rivalries than the horrible carnage to which Christendom still turns.

It is surely quite consistent to believe that though we must do our utmost to cope with the present military situation by military methods, it is yet the duty of those who are not able to take part with the armies of Europe in their terrible work of destruction, to oppose now, and not to-morrow, the spirit of hatred and cruelty which threatens to ruin such civilisation as we have attained through the slow course of centuries. This is all that Miss O'Shea urged, and that any woman can really think otherwise should surely justify a degree of pessimism from which many have hitherto revolted. For if women in England as non-combatants fail to exert their influence in favour of peace: if they forget that in Germany, in Austria, in Russia, in France, and, above all, in America, there is a similar body of non-combatants on whom the war is having much the same effect—then we are optimists indeed if we imagine that any of those social ideals for which The Common Cause has hitherto so consistently fought can recover in our generation from the ruin into which Europe is now rushing headlong for want of the restraining influence which women alone, as non-combatants organised internationally, might to some extent supply.

C. K. Ogden.

ASSISTANCE FOR GERMANS IN DISTRESS.

Madam,—May I through your columns make an appeal to those of your readers who have in the past received education and hospitality in Germany to help the many German ladies who are now stranded in England, unable to obtain any money from home, and in great perplexity and distress? The Emergency Committee for the Assistance of Germans and Austrians in Distress is doing its best to give help in various ways, with weekly allowances, hospitality, or assistance and advice to those who are able to return to their own country. Over 220 have been sent back to Germany through our Committee, and all, we believe, have taken back with them a warm feeling of gratitude to England which we trust will bear fruit in a better future understanding between the two countries. We shall gratefully welcome contributions from any whose memory of past kindness is strong enough to give them confidence in a brighter future even in this present terrible crisis.

Anna B. Thomas, Hon. Secretary.
169, St. Stephen's House, Westminster Bridge, S.W.

A WAY TO HELP OUR BELGIAN ALLIES.

Madam,—On reading in your issue of the 2nd inst. the splendid results attending the sale at Slough of the Belgian badges, the Lowestoft W.S.S. propose holding a similar sale during the first week in November, the proceeds of which will be given to the Belgium Relief Fund.

Isabel Cook.

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National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

To meet the disappointment and in response to the request of many who had not seen the announcement of the change of hour of the Kingsway Hall Meeting on Oct. 20th, and were therefore prevented from attending,

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Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Speakers:—

Miss SHEEPSHANKS and Miss WALSHE,

ON

RELIEF WORK AMONG THE MILLION DESTITUTE BELGIANS IN HOLLAND.

SIGNORINA LUNATI,

ON

"ITALY'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WAR FROM A PRIVATE POINT OF VIEW."

Mrs. SWANWICK, M.A.,

ON

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Our Debt to Belgium.

We have been asked to state the exact nature of our treaty obligations to Belgium, and we hope shortly to publish an article by an expert on this subject. To-day we desire to press another claim upon us, another obligation owed, which is not one of international law, but of common humanity.

Our ally, Belgium, has been ravaged by war. Her cities and villages are destroyed, her capital taken, her countryside laid waste, her people made homeless. She is our ally, and she has fought our battle as well as her own. What are we going to do for her?

To-day we have some thousands of Belgian refugees among us, and we are doing our best for them. But Holland has over one million, and the whole population of Holland is only five. In one province there are 300,000 inhabitants and 400,000 refugees. In one town (Flushing) there are 20,000 inhabitants and 30,000 refugees. In another—hardly more than a village—2,000 inhabitants and 5,000 refugees. In Sluys, there are 1,500 inhabitants and 8,000 refugees; in Aardeburg, 1,500 inhabitants and 5,000 refugees. These figures are incredible; but they are true. They have been supplied by the Burgomasters of the towns and villages they refer to. How is it possible for such things to be? We do not know; but so it is. On one single farm, in barns and buildings and—presumably—on the bare ground, *there are 1,100 refugees.* This is what Holland is doing for Belgium, and Belgium is not her ally.

Now what is Great Britain going to do? One thing is certain, matters cannot remain as they are. It is a blank impossibility for Holland to bear this burden much longer. The kindness of the Dutch people to their helpless guests has been beyond praise. They have sacrificed themselves utterly. But even they cannot longer endure this incredible strain. Winter is coming on, and even shelter will be impossible. The Belgians must either return to Belgium, or—they must come here.

We have heard a good deal about German "atrocities." We have heard a great deal more than we believed. But we must all know that a country in which war is still raging is no country for young women or young men. The men, if they are forced to return, will be impressed for military service in the German army. Most of them, we imagine, would prefer to shoot themselves. The young women will at least risk a fate as horrible, for the horrors which civilised countries seem unable wholly to put down even in time of peace, are certain to be increased by the ghastly licence of war. If we accuse the Germans of cruelty, of what shall we accuse ourselves if we allow these Belgian men and women to be forced back into their desolated country?

It will be asked, what are we to do? Everyone of us has met people who, with open arms and open houses, have begged to have the honour of receiving Belgian refugees—without effect. These people are now disheartened, and have turned their attention elsewhere. To them and to the general public we appeal again. Let them remember that the War Refugees' Committee has had a task of stupendous magnitude to cope with. They receive between 6,000 and 10,000 letters every day, and have had to deal with over 120,000 offers of hospitality. The work is too

large to be dealt with in detail, and offers of help must now be made *en bloc*. They must be made through the municipal authorities, and towns must undertake to provide for so many hundreds—or thousands—of refugees, the work of arranging for hospitality being done by local committees. The great thing is to get the municipal authorities to act. Some, of course, have done so; others have not; but even where they have, one remembers the scale on which things are being done in Holland, and demands that more shall be done here—"Sluys: 1,500 inhabitants, 8,000 refugees"! And again—"There are two camps, at Roosendaal and Bergen op Zoom, with 25,000 Belgians in each. They are mostly women, many with tiny babes and children. Their condition is pitiful. . . ."

It is our business, not to wait till we are asked, not to wait till the refugees arrive. If we wait for this, they will not arrive, and we shall have failed to meet those obligations to Belgium which the most peaceful among us would be the first to hold good. The Government will now act having behind it a public demand, but that demand must be backed by an undertaking that home and food and shelter will be forthcoming—are already waiting—for the refugees. Let us remember what our debt to Belgium is, and remember that her sons and daughters must either come here or go back to her war-stricken soil.

The Care of Motherhood.

The work of those who are trying to prevail upon local authorities to adopt the Local Government Board scheme for the care of maternity, and upon local Relief Committees to give grants for the feeding of mothers and babies, is very much less picturesque and less interesting in description than that of the people who are helping to carry out the actual work. It may, however, be worth while to give members of the N.U., in whose districts this preliminary organisation is either unnecessary or not yet begun, some idea of the sort of work in which certain N.U. organisers are engaged. Take for an example South Wales—the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth. In these counties the Notification of Births Act has not yet been adopted, except in some of the larger towns, and the first step is clearly to get the Act adopted and a Health Visitor appointed in every district where this has not yet been done. The ice was broken in Monmouth by an invitation from the Sanitary Committee of the Abertillery Urban District Council to Mrs. Hills to come to one of their meetings and talk about the scheme. The result of this interview was that it appeared better to approach the Monmouthshire County Council to get them to adopt the Notification of Births Act for the county as a whole, rather than to attempt to work it district by district. Accordingly Miss Harris at once set to work to organise a deputation to the Health Committee of the Monmouthshire County Council. On this the N.U.W.S.S., Women's Co-operative Guild, B.W.T.A., and Salvation Army were represented, and it was introduced by Councillor Cook, of Blaenavon, in the unavoidable absence of Councillor James Winstone, who had intended to introduce it. After the deputation had withdrawn the Committee decided to recommend the Council to adopt the Notification of Births Act, to appoint ten Health Visitors, and to vote £800 to give the scheme a start.

In Glamorgan, on the other hand, the County Council seems to have left it to the local authorities to adopt the Act, and in Aberdare, a town of 50,000 inhabitants, splendid work is being done, very largely through Mrs. Davies, Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, who has been co-opted on to both the Education Committee and an Infant Life-saving Sub-committee of the Sanitary Committee. Accordingly, when Mrs. Hills was invited to speak at Abertridwr, Glam., and Senghenydd, Glam. (both in the district of the Caerphilly Urban District Council), it was decided at the meetings to approach the Urban District Council rather than the County Council. Another reason for this decision was that the Health Committee of the U.D.C. had already recommended the adoption of the Act, and the Urban District Council has rejected it at its last meeting by only a single vote. It was therefore felt that a little pressure on the part of the women might be sufficient to change their decision.

The plan adopted here—suggested by local people—was to have a "mothers' petition" to the Urban District Council, signed only by mothers, asking, for the sake of the children, that something might be done. This petition will be presented at the next meeting of the Urban District Council.

Addressing a meeting of this nature at Senghenydd was an experience not to be forgotten. This little village lost 450 men in the explosion last year—and now hundreds have gone to the war. The title given for Mrs. Hills's address was "Women's Part in War"—and many women refused to come because they feared she would speak of the men they were losing, and they could not bear it. It is as if a blow were struck on an unhealed wound. The village is still in mourning from its last catastrophe, and this new disaster, wrenching away so many of its surviving men, is almost more than it can endure. The air of the place is weighted with tragedy. In many other places work is in progress. In Mansfield (Notts), where Mrs. Hills has been working, the Health Committee has decided to extend its maternity work, by appointing a nurse, and is opening a maternity centre, and on October 21st a Town's meeting was held to put the claims of necessitous mothers before the public. At this meeting the Mayor presided, and after an address by Mrs. Hills, resolutions were moved by the Countess of Carnarvon and by Alderman Maltby (Chairman of the Health Committee), Mrs. Kyrle Smith, Mrs. Hoskyns, Dr. Lambie (M.O.H.), and Mrs. Wilton (Sec. W.C.G.) also speaking. It was decided to form a Committee to work with the Health Committee for the welfare of maternity in the town, and after the meeting this was done. The Mayor, on behalf both of the Council and the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund, offered all possible help.

In Walsall, where the infant mortality rate is very high, and one Health Visitor is expected to cope with a population of nearly 100,000 (last year she paid 3,250 visits), a conference has been held (called by the Women's Co-operative Guild), at which about a dozen women's organisations, including the N.U.W.S.S., were represented. Mrs. Hills addressed the meeting, and resolutions were passed, calling on the Health Committee to extend its maternity work and appoint more Health Visitors, and on the Relief Fund Committee to make grants for feeding mothers and babies when required. A good deal of public opinion has been raised in the town, and it is hoped that something will soon be done. On October 22nd a meeting was held at Southport, addressed by Mrs. Hills, at which it was decided to start a school for mothers, to work under the Health Committee and at many other places similar work is in progress. Work through local authorities is slow, and we are yet at the initial stages. Everything, though, points to an awakening public opinion, and a growing sense of the importance of the care of motherhood.

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A Few of the Bits of Work the London Society is Doing.

Help for Refugees.

"We appealed and it came in," was the reply when a representative of the Ealing and Acton Branch was asked how they got the furniture for the Belgian hostel they, with the assistance of the local Church League, have just established. The story of this home (for the Belgian guests, who number about sixty and include one family of sixteen, all declare it is as nearly home as may be) affords an example of the mobility of Suffragists. All within a few days Mr William Owen (of Westbourne Grove) offered his beautiful home at The Elms, Castlebar Road, on the condition that the Suffrage Committee managed everything, and it was little more than a matter of hours before the guests began to come The first offering was a parcel from a postman, and in it groceries and a pair of stout boots newly soled by himself! The Belgian group now established includes a Belgian cat and a Belgian parrot in its Belgian cage, so that all the world may know it is indeed a home and not a mere institution.

The Northwood members have also done splendid service in this matter of hostels, and Blackheath and South Kensington are at work too. It is greatly hoped that other branches who are giving the question consideration will decide to act also. And in the meanwhile, will people send offers to 58, Victoria Street of every household necessary—furniture, bedding, &c., &c.—so that such offers may be distributed to the right quarters without delay. Miss Boyd is at present representing the Society in the Allocation Department at Aldwych, and every Committee which can make itself responsible for a home will enable her to do so even more worthily—a special incentive to further effort is to be found in the generous testimony borne by the Honourable Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, of the War Refugees' Committee, who, speaking the other day at the Kingsway meeting, said that what we had done for registration the Government was now doing "not half so well"! *Deptford* Belgians must have pride of place, but this work is only a tiny fraction of the Society's activities. Dry summaries, even if there were space for them, do not tell much, instead I may quote as a sample the report which comes in from one South London district :—

"In Deptford our organiser represents the Society on the Work for Women Committee, and was able to help some of the poorest factory girls in the district by accompanying them on a deputation to state their case to the Mayoral Committee. Three of the members of the local L.S. Committee are also on the Mayoral Committee, while three others are serving on Ward Committees. In Greenwich an office has been given us in the Borough Hall, where voluntary workers are registered and allotted to the different organisations which apply for helpers. Some not needed in the immediate district have gone to help with Girls' Clubs and visiting in Bermondsey and Deptford, where the need is greater.

"Four members of the Branch are serving on the Mayoress's Work for Women Committee and one on the Mayoral Committee. In Lewisham the local depôt has registered and set to work a large number of volunteers. Its help has been officially accepted by the Mayoral Committee on behalf of the Wards, and we are represented on this Committee by our Hon. Secretary and our Chairman, the latter also representing us on the Work for Women Sub-Committee. A large store of clothing of all kinds has been collected at the depôt, and is being distributed to refugees and to workrooms in the district."

The East End.

A few days ago a crowded conference, composed of many East End workers and other experts in social reform, met at 58, Victoria Street to consider several splendid offers in regard to the foundation of a Baby Home or School for Mothers in connection with the Society's work in that district. Amid much enthusiasm a house was offered, the salary of a matron was offered, and £40 was guaranteed in the room. Mrs. Fawcett, who was among those who took part in the discussion, received the warmest of welcomes.

Women's Employment.

At The Englishwoman Exhibition (which opens for ten days on November 4th at the Maddox Street Galleries) the Society will have a "Women's Service" stall, and on it will be seen—what will be seen. Members and friends must come to find out; suffice it to say it will be something new and delightful to help in the problem of women's employment. The "B.T.G." and the "B.T.F." will then reveal their true names.

Several weeks ago the Hon. Secretary of the Queen's Work for Women Fund invited our co-operation in providing speakers to explain its aims, and business meetings have been addressed by the Society's representatives, with members of the Fund Committee at Battersea, Lambeth, Camberwell, and Islington Town Halls, as well as public meetings at the Mansion House and Deptford. Many of our Organisers and Secretaries have

done splendid work in actively promoting the organisation of work rooms under the central scheme. Miss Clementina Black's Hot Pots industry for Unemployed Girls continues to develop. Orders for these at 3s. 9d. and 5s. are welcome; one is on view at the head office.

Motor Ambulance for the Front.

As already announced, by the generosity of a group of members and friends, the "London Suffragist" motor ambulance, bearing the name of the Society, will shortly go to the front. Donations for medical necessaries for it are most acceptable.

Women's Service.

All the time the main work of the Women's Service Clearing House scheme develops so rapidly that it strains all the resources of our splendid body of professional and voluntary workers to keep pace with it. Please therefore send some donations specially marked "Women's Service Expenses Fund," c/o The Honourable Mrs. Spencer Graves, 58, Victoria Street, so that not only may this work be maintained and extended without gravely overworking the willing and devoted workers, but even that some of the many professional women with all the necessary gifts, but lacking means, may be employed upon it. At Lady Brassey's Women's Service meeting (already reported) Lord Brassey very heartily commended the system adopted, and has since sent a cheque for £50.

Almost daily since the war began Lady Brassey has given us the support of her advice and personal service, attending many mornings a week at the office to assist in interviewing inquirers.

The Society sent a speaker on the "Service" work to the opening meeting of the Pioneer Club's Winter Session, and she took for her theme Mrs. Fawcett's message, "Women! your country needs you."

Local Clearing Houses continue to be opened, as, for example, at Steinway Hall, at Messrs. Owen's, Westbourne Grove, at the Holborn Town Hall, at Battersea, Fulham, &c.

The needs supplied are many and various. A complete magic-lantern, lecturer, and slides at a few hours' notice, while the club needing it had already applied unsuccessfully to six other organisations! A worker, offering motor-car cleaning, diagram drawing, and lettering as her accomplishments is now most usefully employing all three talents. A gentleman needing another to instruct him in French military terms will not, we hope, have to wait long. Every day brings new needs. We want more and more efficient volunteers, and even the rawest recruits are welcome.

And, please, everyone remember the date of our great meeting at the Queen's Hall, on Thursday, November 26th. All particulars will be announced very soon.

A. H. W

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN" ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION.

We are glad to hear that *The Englishwoman* Exhibition is to be held as usual in the Maddox Street Galleries (November 4th—14th). So many exhibitions of Arts and Crafts have been abandoned that this one has a special claim upon us. As the notice issued by the management points out, British handicrafts have suffered for years from the competition of machine-made articles from Germany, and have now, in the absence of such competition, a golden opportunity. On the other hand, neither the prevailing economic conditions, nor the atmosphere of war, are favourable to the craftsman, and to seize the opportunity the help of the public is necessary.

THE £1 A WEEK CAMPAIGN.

Glasgow City Council has voted unanimously in favour of the £1 a week pension for wives, widows, and (dependent) mothers of soldiers and sailors, and for disabled soldiers and sailors, and the resolution is to be forwarded in the form of a request to the Government. It was moved by Councillor Dollan, on the part of the Labour Party. We understand that, among other bodies, the Women's Co-operative Guild is supporting the demand.

TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE.

At the N.U. work-rooms women are being trained to a high standard of efficiency. They are not working at their own trade, of course, and have mostly to begin as "learners," at 3d. an hour. They are also not on full time, as they must have some time free in which to seek for permanent employment. Their rate of pay is, however, raised as they become proficient, and it is hoped that some branches of the work may become self-supporting.

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2. MICROSCOPES, TELESCOPES, SPECTROSCOPES, &c., &c.
3. OPERA & FIELD GLASSES

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SATS.: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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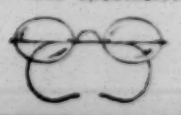

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Between Tottenham Court Rd. & Bloomsbury St.
AND
146, STRAND, W.C.
Opposite Gaiety Theatre.
LONDON.

Lorgnettes.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Exhibition of Work.

On Thursday, November 5th, an exhibition will be held at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, of work of all kinds done in our workrooms; new clothes made for grown-ups and children, old clothes re-adapted, worn garments mended, toys manufactured. A special feature will be some sets of rational and pretty clothing for children. Please come and see them, and give us some orders.

The Menderies.

This department is flourishing so exceedingly that next week we are opening a new depôt at 173, Fulham Road. We should still like to have work from a distance addressed to this office, so that the orders may be distributed to the best advantage, but we shall, of course, be very glad to receive at the shop in Fulham Road any orders which it is more convenient to send there.

Second-hand Clothing.

The Parliamentary Department has become a secondhand clothing depôt! Will someone lend or give us a good-sized cupboard where the generous gifts of clothing we are receiving in such numbers may be kept until they are distributed? This does not mean that we are hoarding clothes instead of dispatching them promptly where they are most needed, but only that we send them off in fairly large quantities at intervals of a few days, during which time they are liable to become very dusty in a London office, besides giving the Parliamentary Department a most untidy appearance.

Toy-Making.

Under Miss Edith Craig's supervision the toy factory is making excellent progress. Will readers save all their cotton reels, and send them here, where they will be ingeniously converted into toys? Empty matchboxes and corks are also in demand.

The Shop, 50, Parliament Street.

The Shop workroom is in need of gifts of longcloth, white flannel, cotton print, and muslin.

Cookery Classes.

Centres will shortly be opened in various parts of London for teaching working women simple cookery. Gifts of cooking utensils, basins, dishes, &c., will be welcomed, and should be sent to Miss Clark, at 14, Great Smith Street.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,846	7	5
Miss Stoehr		10	0
Shrewsbury W.S.S.	5	0	0
Mr. A. W. Collier		10	0
Miss Mabel Holland	1	0	0
Miss Ethel Stevenson	1	0	0
Mrs. E. Gamble (5th weekly donation)		1	0
Mrs. Standon Suire		10	6
Miss Jessie Barrett		10	0
Bradford W.S.S.	10	0	0
Mrs. Robertson Garrett	1	0	0
Miss B. Candler		10	0
Mrs. Lightbody	5	0	0
Mrs. and Miss Cockerell		10	0
Miss I. M. Evans (2nd monthly donation)		2	6
Anonymous	15	0	0
Miss Elsie Hancock		5	0
Miss Lilian Howell	10	0	0
Miss Thelma J. Allen	4	19	7
Mrs. F. E. Marshall	10	0	0
Miss Mary Floyd	1	1	0
Mrs. H. Crosfield	1	0	0
Miss Mary F. Merwin	1	0	7
Miss B. Nicholls	1	0	0
Mme. Loppé	3	0	0
Miss M. E. Dunn	2	2	0
Miss W. E. Paines	1	0	0
Miss A. Brown		2	6
Mrs. Hastings	1	0	0
Mrs. Henry G. Price		10	6
Mr. H. Ernest Dell	3	0	0
Mrs. Ballard	1	1	0
Mrs. McInnes		2	0
Miss E. Paterson		10	0
Miss Mole	1	1	0
"Every Little Helps"	1	0	0
Miss Nellie Jordan	1	0	0
Mrs. Robert Robinson	5	0	0
Miss Margaret Scriven		10	0
Miss B. E. Potter	1	0	0
Mrs. S. M. Russell	2	0	0
The Misses Manley	5	0	0
Miss E. A. Green		5	0
Dr. Edith E. Goodrich	3	0	0
Mrs Cotterill		5	0
An Old Lady (an Old Age Pensioner)		1	0
Miss Honor Lawrence	1	1	0
Mrs. Shuttleworth		5	0
Miss Bertha Mason	1	1	0
Mrs. Minturn-Scott	1	1	0
Miss Margaret Deneke		5	0
Miss L. M. Kent	1	0	0
Miss G. H. Kemeys-Tynte	5	5	0
E.M.	25	0	0
Anonymous		2	6
At 50, Parliament Street:—			
Miss Agnes Catchpool	1	0	0
Miss D. M. Evans		2	6
Miss Lena Denny		10	0
Mrs. C. Henley Hopkins		6	0
Per Miss Hamilton	1	0	0
Miss Mason		10	0
Anonymous		6	0
	£1,989	2	7

HOSPITALITY OFFERED.

"A lady living in a beautiful country house in Scotland wishes to adopt a little girl of about six years to bring up with her own child. An officer's daughter preferred. She would also prefer a child of Scottish parentage." Reply to Miss Low, 40, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

WANTED—A YACHT!

Dr. Inglis writes:—

"I want a yacht to take our first hospital unit to Salonika. It is very expensive going by ordinary ways now, and we want every single penny for dressings and medicines and blankets. I also want 200 pyjama suits, because the Serbians will not wear nightshirts, and as many socks and bed-socks and bed-jackets as people can send us.

"The *personnel* of the Serbian Unit is splendid. Mrs. Miller, a Bulgarian, is going as Administrator; Dr. Staley, who has had twenty-three years' experience in India, as Senior Surgeon; Dr. Lilian Chesney, as Senior Physician.

"Only one other thing just now. In last week's list of subscriptions there was 'The Newington Bed, per Dr. Inglis.' Now, will you tell that that £50 has been collected by a work party, started to work for the soldiers, an auxiliary of the N.U. of W.S.S. Mrs. Bartholomew is President, and it is held in Mrs. Gunn's house in Craigmillan Park. They collected the money in about two weeks."

Who will go and do likewise? Dr. Inglis adds:—"We have got in our first £1,000, but we ought to tackle our second unit at once for the Belgian Red Cross." A second list of donations is given on page 515.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" SELLING.

We wish to bring The Common Cause before a much larger public, in order that they may know how women are helping their country and how they can do their part. No better way can be found than street selling. Will you help?

Monthly Meetings for Sellers.

We propose to hold monthly meetings for sellers at the office of The Common Cause, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., when Mrs. Harley and Miss Royden will be present to meet those who are giving the paper such splendid help. All who have helped or wish to help in future are cordially invited.

The meetings will, as a rule, take place at 6.30 p.m. on the second Thursday in the month. For November only, the day will be Tuesday (10th), as the Provincial Council is fixed for the Thursday.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots where Papers and Posters can be Obtained.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can be obtained at 44, Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2-3 p.m.

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT.—Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street, High Street, Kensington, has kindly consented to provide this depôt, and copies, posters, and bags can now be obtained here for High Street, Kensington, and district selling.

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C., has kindly consented to take charge of the Holborn and S. St. Pancras District. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Mrs. Paul will distribute papers to helpers any day except Sunday.

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Miss Cohn has kindly consented to distribute papers to sellers and receive the returns, &c. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the City is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

The following donations have been received:—"London Scot," £1, Mrs. Dawson Clark, 2s. 6d., Miss Colbeck, 2s., Miss L. J. Churchman, £1 1s. Please send some more!

REPORTS OF WORK BY OUR SOCIETIES.

We hope to publish each week an account of some special piece of work undertaken by one of our Societies, and also, from time to time, short reports summarised under different headings, such as "Work for Unemployed Women," "Care of Maternity," etc. Our ordinary monthly reports have been discontinued for the present, but a letter has been sent out to secretaries and correspondents asking them to send us accounts of any entirely fresh schemes of work which may be started in their district.

BRITISH DOMINIONS W.S.U. AND THE C.D. ACTS.

As in the Plymouth Town Council, the question has been raised of the advisability in the present emergency of some measure on the lines of the C.D. Acts, the Hon. Secretary of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union has written to the Premier, the Secretary of State for War, and the Town Clerk of Plymouth, protesting against the possible granting by Parliament of special powers in the way of police regulations. The B.D.W.S.U. is acting in this matter in concert with the Women's Freedom League and the other Suffrage Societies.

Readers organising feeding centres for mothers, &c., will be interested to learn that by writing to Messrs. Neaves & Co., Fordingbridge, they will receive, free and post free, an excellent little booklet entitled "Hints About Baby," whilst if they enclose with their application two penny stamps, they will receive, in addition, free of all costs, a sample of generous size of Messrs. Neave's Infants' Food.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Best Ways of Working as a Visitor or a Voluntary Helper.

Mrs. Rackham gave the first of a course of three lectures on the above subject at the London School of Economics on October 21st. She asked her audience not to believe that there is not room for voluntary workers in this era of official agencies. Every extension of State activities makes more demands on volunteers to supplement and adjust it, and much State legislation depends on voluntary work, while the way for new legislation must be prepared by voluntary experiment. The Insurance Act does not cover the health of the whole nation or provide for the majority of women or for any children. In many cases Sickness Benefit is inadequate, and must be supplemented by Poor Law Relief or by charity. Old Age Pensions are frequently inadequate, as is proved by the fact that seven pensioners died of starvation in 1913. Pensions cannot be supplemented by Poor Law Relief, but may be by charity. Many poor people are in need of help before they are eligible for pensions. The provision made for children by the Education Authorities does not cover the periods before or after school age. Maternity and motherhood must be cared for by voluntary effort; at present the widows of soldiers and sailors are mainly dependant on voluntary aid; and the work of Care Committees and Juvenile Advisory Committees must be done for the most part by volunteers. At present the police-force is insufficient, and women patrols are required.

Mrs. Rackham considers that the oft-repeated maxim: "Don't give without full enquiry" is an unfortunate way of putting a principle which has a foundation of truth, for it implies that after enquiry it may not be necessary to give at all. It is better to say "People can only be helped adequately when we can enter into the full circumstances of their lives," remembering at the same time that immediate relief must be given in cases of urgent need. We must be clear about the spirit in which we make enquiries. It should not be that of a judge deciding whether the poor are good or bad, but that of a doctor, trying to find out what is wrong so that he can cure it. In all things a plan is necessary. Much besides money is needed; often difficulty arises over the disbursing of sums raised. Inadequate doles are often given to widows with young children. These women need more than money, and those who desire to help them must give freely of their friendship and gifts of imagination.

Mrs. Rackham urged the necessity of co-operation between different agencies, and quoted as an instance of overlapping the case of a child with hip-disease who was visited by people from six organisations! Every case should be registered by each agency at a central office, so that a joint scheme may be devised. It is very important to have exact knowledge of agencies working among the poor, so that we may be able to explain who should be applied to in each case. Knowledge of law is a great advantage in advising the poor on such matters as rights of landlord and tenant, eviction, compensation for accidents, fines or deductions, overtime, employment of children, school leaving age, registration of children at nurse, assaults, right of maintenance of deserted wives, etc.*

In conclusion Mrs. Rackham urged her audience to respect the conventions of the poor, and to take them into consideration when giving advice. In all the difficulties which voluntary workers may encounter they must put before them the aim of "trying to see both the wood and the trees at the same time."

MARGUERITE M. McARTHUR.

* *See "Hints for Social Workers on Legal Difficulties of the Working Classes." Pub. N.U.W.W. 2d.*

Lectures on Relief Work.

In view of the many applications for admission received in excess of the accommodation available for the lectures on the Relief of Exceptional Distress by Mrs. Rackham and Mr. C. M. Lloyd, at the London School of Economics and Political Science, arrangements have been made for the repetition of the course on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 5.0 p.m., beginning Monday, November 2nd.

Addresses by the Rev. John Hunter, D.D.

The Rev. John Hunter, D.D., lately of the King's Weigh House Church, London, and of Trinity Church, Glasgow, is now holding a service, followed by a sermon every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, at the Æolian Hall, Bond Street. The present series of sermons will be continued till the end of 1914.

Meetings.

Bradford.

A very successful meeting, organised by the Bradford Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, was held on October 17th in the Saloon of the Mechanics' Institute. Miss Maude Royden was the speaker, her subject being "Women and War—A Neglected Duty." The Chairman was the Vicar of Bradford, the Rev. F. T. Woods. The saloon was crowded with an enthusiastic audience. Six dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and the sale of badges made 3s. The collection realised £4 14s. 6d.

Leicester.

A public meeting on "War and Women," arranged by the Leicester W.S.S., was held at the Temperance Hall on Friday, October 23rd, Mr. J. M. Gimson, J.P., in the chair. The speakers were Mrs. Creighton, President of the National Union of Women Workers, and Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson.

Among those who wrote apologising for their absence, or wishing success to the meeting, were the Bishop of Leicester, the Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P., Sir John Rolleston, M.P., Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., and Mr. A. Richardson.

The Leicester W.S.S., and the town generally, are much indebted to the N.U.W.S.S. for allowing Miss Elizabeth Blackstone to stay in Leicester to help with War Relief Work. Her recent appointment as Hon. Secretary to the Committee for Maternity Work is an indication of the general appreciation of her services by her colleagues, whatever their views may be on the Suffrage question.

Romford and District.

Meetings were held at the Baths on September 23rd and October 14th, on "Women's Work in War Time," the speakers being Miss Sheepshanks and Mrs. Rackham. On October 21st Lady Victor Horsley spoke on the same subject at an "At Home" at the House of Mrs. Randall, Gidea Park.

Work for Women.

Birkenhead W.S.S.

On the initiative of Mrs. New, a member of Committee, steps were taken to organise a workroom for girls and women out of employment.' In this the President, Mrs. Duckworth, took a very active part. To make it thoroughly representative of all the various relief and other charitable associations in the town, representatives from each organisation, such as the Red Cross, District Nursing, Women's Local Government, British Women's Temperance, as well as the Conservative and Unionist Suffrage Association, were asked to join the Committee. The Mayoress kindly consented to act as President and Treasurer, and Mrs. Duckworth as Sub-Treasurer. A suite of rooms were placed at the disposal of the Society by the kindness of the Theosophical Society, and thirty-five women are now at work, most of them dressmakers' assistants. There is also an outdoor branch, inaugurated in the first instance by the Red Cross Society, which supplies materials to women unable to leave their homes. The workroom is connected with the "Queen's Fund."

Forthcoming Meetings.

For List of Meetings, see page 516.

SOME CORRECTIONS.

We have received several corrections to reports of local activities, which have appeared in the "C.C.," and urge correspondents to be careful to make quite sure of their facts. Our usual system of reports is disorganised at the present time, and we have to rely in some cases on reports kindly sent to us by correspondents who have received their news verbatim.

CAMBRIDGE.—We are informed that the profits of the Cambridge Soldiers' Tent have not been given to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, as previously reported, but that their destination has not yet been decided.

PEEBLES.—The "two Suffragist members" of the Relief Committee, described in our report as objecting to the relief of the unemployed by doles instead of money, were supported by other members of the Committee, and as a result of their protest they and another lady were allowed to form a sub-committee to deal with women's employment. Unemployed women are now being found work by this sub-committee; not by the Suffrage Society, as stated.

£14 was raised for the Relief Committee by the Suffrage Society, by a jumble sale, and a donation was also given to the Red Cross Society.

HITCHIN, STEVENAGE AND DISTRICT.—The eleven members of the N.U. reported as being on the "*Stevenage* Relief Committee" are divided among the four places covered by the Society—Hitchin, Stevenage, Knebworth, and Welwyn. Some men members of the N.U. are also on these committees.

Secretaries of Societies.

WEST HERTS.—Miss G. Bradford, North End House, Watford (given as Sec. of *East* Herts in our last list).

Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service.

Second List of Subscriptions.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per First List	276	1	5
Miss C. Gunn, Mounteagle, Dornoch	1	1	0
Miss Helen McNicol, Seaview, Leven		1	0
Miss Cleaver, 19, Honeywell Road, Wandsworth Common, London		2	6
Miss C. M'Millan, 46, Cranley Gardens, London, S.W.	2	2	0
Miss Mary E. Christie, Laughton Crescent, Murrayfield, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Miss F. M. G. Bradford, North End House, Watford, London	3	3	0
Miss Alice Carter, 136, Hagley Road, Birmingham	3	3	0
Mr. Sim, Tweed House, Selkirk	5	0	0
Miss S. P. Christie, Blinkbonny, Lundin Links, Fifeshire	5	0	0
The Misses Badley, Winterseeds, Grasmere, Westmorland	5	0	0
Miss Lumsden, 98, Polwarth Terrace, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Mrs. A. I. Houston, 60, Balmoral Avenue, Cathcart, Glasgow		10	0
Miss Emily Rigby, 135, Hampton Road, Southport		10	0
Peter Allan, Esq., 100, South Bridge, Edinburgh		10	0
Miss Ramsay, Fen House, Perth		5	0
Miss E. Allison, Fen House, Perth		10	0
Mrs. A. C. Osler, Fallowfield, Edgbaston, Birmingham	10	0	0
Miss Margaret Greg, Lee Hall, Prestbury, Cheshire	2	0	0
Edwin Adam, Esq., 11, Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Mrs. Mary G. McKerrow, 17, Montgomerie Drive, Glasgow	10	0	0
W. L. McKerrow, Esq., 65, Hamilton Drive, Glasgow		10	0
Miss Margaret Murray, 22, Bank Street, Hillhead, Glasgow	1	0	0
Miss L. Coats, Lannox House, Isle of Arran	200	0	0
George Barbour, Esq., Bonskeid, Pitlochry	20	0	0
Robert Fullerton, Esq., M.D., 24, Newton Place, Glasgow	1	1	0
Miss M. A. Jamieson, 121, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, London, S.W.	3	0	0
Misses B. and M. Trollope, 12, Chantrey House, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.	20	0	0
Miss Emma B. Curtis, 48, The Esplanade, Greenock	2	2	0
Dundee W.S.S., per Miss Edith A. McIntyre, Vinebank, Broughty Ferry (*to name a bed for six months*)	25	0	0
William Tawse, Contractor, Aberdeen	1	0	0
Miss Haldane, Cloan, Auchterarder	2	0	0
Miss Dorothy Partridge, 39, King's Hill, Wednesbury, Staffs.	1	6	0
The Hon. Mrs. Scott, Humbie House, Humbie	5	0	0
Charles Price, Esq., M.P., 10, Athol Crescent, Edinburgh	3	3	0
Miss Lilian Law, 7, Belford Place, Edinburgh	5	0	0
"E. L.," Dollar, £25 for a bed to be named "The Elizabeth," and £25 towards cost of a motor ambulance	50	0	0
John Aitken, Esq., Ardenlea, Falkirk	2	2	0
W. Templeton, Esq., Hollybush, 137, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Mrs. McLeod, 17, George Square, Edinburgh	2	0	0
Miss F. M. McLeod, 17, George Square, Edinburgh	2	0	0
Miss Begg, 1, Ramsay Gardens, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Mrs. F. G. Salvesen, 21, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh	5	0	0
Miss M. Stevenson, 13, Kingsbury Road, Murrayfield, Edinburgh	1	0	0
Per Miss Katherine Shepherd, 1, Amen Court, St. Paul's, London—Mrs. Buckston, 10s.; Mrs. Wooley, 5s.; Miss Hester Shepherd, £1	1	15	0
Mrs. Simpson, 1, Amen Court, St. Paul's, London	10	0	0
R. C. Blackstone, Esq., The Red House, Virginia Water, Surrey	0	5	0
Cambridge W.S.S., per Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Rootham, 4, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge	5	0	0
The Misses Campbell Smith, The Rosaire, Dundee	5	0	0
Miss E. Pagan, Essenden School, Skegness, Lincolnshire	2	0	0
Mrs. Christison, 20, Magdala Crescent, Edinburgh	2	2	0
Miss Alice Crompton, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh	1	0	0
Rev. Robert Drummond, D.D., 3, East Castle Road, Edinburgh	2	0	0
W. Horne Cook, Esq., 42, Castle Street, Edinburgh	10	0	0
Lady Lorimer, 54, Melville Street, Edinburgh	20	0	0
"J. L.," for a bed to be named "The Glasgow"	50	0	0
T. Nasmyth, Esq., Torrie House, Newmills, Fifeshire	50	0	0
Mrs. Campbell, Arduaine, Argyleshire	50	0	0
	£890	18	9

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ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urged to write distinctly when sending particulars of meetings.

OCTOBER 30.

Edinburgh.—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Mrs. Leslie Mackenzie (Member of Edinburgh School Board) on "The Administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund" 4.30

Southport—Girls' Club—Annual Meeting—Speaker, the Rev. J. Ivory Cripps, B.A. 7.30

South Kensington—7, Courtfield Road—"At Home"—Speakers, the Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Rinder, Miss Walshe—Chair, Mrs. Rendal—Subjects: Women's Service, and Scheme for S. Kensington Hostel for Belgian Refugees 8.30

OCTOBER 31.

Edinburgh—Masson Hall, 31, George Square (Edin. Univ. W.S.S.)—Miss Alice Low, on "Women's Work in the War" 8.0

NOVEMBER 2.

Cardiff and District—Lecture by Mrs. J. E. Emmerson Price, on "Woman as Wife and Worker" 7.30

Bristol—Working Parties at 40, Park Street 3 & 6.30

Wednesbury—Paper to be read by Miss Torrington, in Congregational Schools, on "Women's Suffrage."

NOVEMBER 3.

Cambridge—Public Meeting in the Guildhall (Small Room), on "Women's Work in War Time"—Chair, Mrs. Bethune-Baker—Speakers, Miss C. E. Marshall (Hon. Sec. Employment Scheme Sub-Committee of the Central Committee for Women's Employment), Mrs. McCubbin (Founder of Toy-Making Industry, Women's Emergency Corps), and others 8.0

Winchester—Co-operative Hall—Chair, Miss Hoyer—Speaker, Miss E. Tite, on "Protection of Young People" 3.0

East St. Pancras—Meeting of Liberal and Radical Association—18, High Street, Camden Town, N.W.—Speaker, Mrs. Rawlings.

NOVEMBER 4.

Bristol—Meeting at St. Agnes.

Gateshead—1, Cuthbert Street, Bensham—Sewing Meeting, at which books of interest to women will be discussed 7.30

Golder's Green—Adult School Meeting—Club House, Willifield Way—Open to members and friends—Speaker, Miss Anna Martin 8.0

Letchworth—Men's Debating Society—Mrs. Rackham 8.0

NOVEMBER 5.

Golder's Green—Chair, W. Bansfield, Esq.—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Hessell 8.15

NOVEMBER 6.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" 4.30

Leamington—35, Warwick Street—Joint Meeting—Mrs. Ring on "Women's Work" 3.0

NOVEMBER 7.

Kilmarnock—Jumble Sale, proceeds of which are to be devoted to Relief Work.

WANTED.—Orders for Cut Flowers, Wreaths, Room Plants, Window Boxes; Care of or laying-out of London Gardens. Also Home-made Jams, that more employment may be given during the War, instead of less.

WOMEN'S GARDENING ASSOCIATION,
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